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the image of the Moon's limb and the diffraction image of the star appears to render a record of these observations desirable.

The following notes were made by the observers:

Mr. Wickham, with heliometer, $7\frac{1}{2}$-inch object-glass, and power = 200:

'The star did not disappear, but skirted the north limb. The exterior flames of the star's image on the side next the Moon were, at times, lost in the Moon's disc, although there was a strong contrast between the quality of the Moon's light and that of the star. The Moon's colour was a dead creamy white, the star's a brilliant light orange. The close contact of the star's disc to that of the Moon lasted without apparent change for nearly three minutes. The nearest appulse took place close to the division of the illuminated and defective limbs. There was very strong twilight.'

Mr. Robinson, with Marlborough telescope, $3\frac{1}{4}$-inch object-glass, and power = 80:

'The star was not occulted, but it apparently grazed the Moon's N. limb; three or four minutes previous to this, or about $5^h\ 47^m$ G.M.T., the Moon's periphery when produced beyond the N. cusp appeared to bisect the star. The dark limb of the Moon was not visible owing to twilight. The colour of the star greatly contrasted with that of the Moon, being orange-red throughout.'

Mr. Bellamy, with 10-foot telescope, 7-inch object-glass, power 125:

'The star was not occulted, but the outer rings of the image were, at times, in contact with and a small portion lost sight of in the illumination of the Moon's limb. The time when I estimated that the star was nearest the bright limb of the Moon was about $5^h\ 51\frac{1}{2}^m$ G.M.T.'

Note on the Near Approach of Moon to α Tauri.

By Thomas Gwyn Elger.

Though this object was not actually occulted here on March 2, the exceedingly near approach of the Moon and star was watched with much interest, as it seemed probable, when the time drew near, that it might suffer a momentary eclipse by some of the elevations on the Moon's northern limb. Between $5^h\ 49^m$ and $5^h\ 54^m$ it appeared to be almost in contact with one of these, without, however, its light being visibly affected. The position of my observatory, according to the 6-inch scale map of the Ordnance Survey, is N. Lat. 52° 7′ 10″, W. Long. 2 mins. 0·4 sec. A power of 150 was used on a $8\frac{1}{2}$-inch Calver Reflector.

Kempston, Beds:
1887, *March* 5.

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Second Occultation of Aldebaran, 1887. By the Rev. S. J. Johnson.

In marked contrast to the occultation period of 1866–9, when only one emersion of *Aldebaran* was visible from my place of observation and no immersion, the second passage of the Moon over the star visible here this year, on March 2, was seen under a sky even more favourable than the first. Parallax slightly lengthened the duration as compared with Greenwich. Immersion $5^h\ 40^m\ 53^s$, quite as instantaneous as last January. Sun had reached the horizon but had not descended. At $6^h\ 0^m\ 56^s$ *Aldebaran* clear of the Moon's limb, but visible on the bright edge five seconds before this. The illusion conveyed to the eye at emersion, probably from the smallness of the instrument and power, 50 on $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, was that the star was shining through the bright limb. The only time I have had this impression before was during the totality of the eclipse of August 23, 1877, when three or four small stars appeared within the reddened disk for 8 or 10 seconds before actually disappearing. The same impression appears to have been conveyed to the eyes of observers at Greenwich and elsewhere on the occasion of the occultation of October 15, 1829.

Melplash Vicarage, Dorset:
March 9.

The Occultation of Aldebaran. By C. Leeson Prince.

I observed the occultation of *Aldebaran* this evening under very favourable circumstances; the Moon being so near the meridian, the Sun had just set, and the atmosphere was very calm, clear, and diaphanous; nevertheless, the non-illuminated portion of the Moon was not visible.

The disappearance occurred at $4^h\ 25^m\ 57^s$, and the reappearance at $4^h\ 48^m\ 37^s$, local sidereal time. The star was occulted, therefore, exactly $22^m\ 40^s$.

The disappearance was absolutely instantaneous, but the reappearance not quite so, a very minute point of light being visible for nearly a second before the star completely emerged; this may perhaps have been occasioned by a slight elevation on the lunar surface at the exact point of reappearance. Telescope 6·8 inches aperture, focal length, 12 feet; mag. power, 144.

The Observatory, Crowborough, Sussex:
1887, *March* 2.

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